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Volume 2

Article 8

2016

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Recommended Citation

Veritas (2016) "Voting third party," *Veritas*: Vol. 2 , Article 8.

Available at: <https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/veritas/vol2/iss1/8>

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VOTING THIRD PARTY

By Veritas Editorial Board

“I DIDN’T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THE PRESENCE OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OR GARY JOHNSON UNTIL THIS ELECTION.”

Jake Wilson,

Iowa State University graduate

If you find your political ideologies do not match up with the Republican or Democratic Parties, consider registering third party.

Third party is a term used for any party outside of the Republican and Democratic Parties. There are only three third parties with voter registration over 75,000 including the Libertarian Party, Green Party, and Constitution Party. Aside from these three, there are currently 37 more parties to register to.

This presidential election has seen two third party candidates stand out amongst the others. These include Libertarian Gary Johnson and Green Party Jill Stein.

Gary Johnson served as the Governor of New Mexico and is expected to receive five percent of the vote on November 8.

“I guess I didn’t know much about the presence of the Libertarian Party or Gary Johnson until this election,” said recent Iowa State University graduate Jake Wilson.

Johnson is a graduate of the University of New Mexico in political science, but started his own construction business after graduation. Johnson’s business made it big after a contract with Intel that increased the business’s income to \$38 million.



Photo by: Jessica Darland

In 1994, Johnson decided to enter the race for governor, and served as the Governor of New Mexico from 1995 to 2003.

Flash forward to 2012, with Johnson’s first attempt at running for president in the Republican Party. After not gaining traction one month before the New Hampshire primary, Johnson announced his withdrawal from the race. Four years later in 2016, Johnson announced that he would be running for president as a Libertarian candidate.

“I guess you could say I’m the middle of the road Libertarian,” Johnson said. “I understand all the Libertarian principles, I think all the principles are spot on, but in my lifetime some of those principles are not achievable.”

Johnson’s stance on issues follows that closely of the Libertarian party, including women’s rights to abortion, state’s rights to flying the Confederate flag, and human’s rights to marry whomever they want regardless of gender.

Jill Stein is a physician and environmental activist with two unsuccessful campaigns for governor of Massachusetts. Stein is a member of the Green Party and is also expected to receive around five percent of the vote on Election Day.

Stein received both her bachelor's and M.D. from Harvard University and practiced as a physician for 25 years where she became concerned about patients and how their health was affected by the environment. Stein formed non-profit organizations for the cause and became an advocate for creating healthier communities.

Stein first ran for office as the Green Party candidate in 2012 and received only 0.1 percent of the vote. Now, Stein is running again as a Green Party candidate in the 2016 election.

The Grass Roots party believes in ecological sustainability, social justice, nonviolence, and grassroots politics.

Similar to the party, Stein's views include the thought that society bears the cost of pollution, there should be a legal requirement to hire women and minorities, and stricter punishment reduces crime.

If either of these parties strikes interest with you, consider doing more research to see what parties align more with your political ideologies.

"I'm looking into voting third party and I'm definitely swaying towards it," said Marissa Ferguson, senior in apparel, merchandising, and design. "I had first heard about it this summer from my dad. It made me look into it because I don't like Donald Trump and what he stands for. At the same time I don't trust Hillary Clinton so I was looking into other options."

Don't feel your vote is restricted to two candidates; on November 8 be sure to enter the poll as an informed voter, and leave the poll satisfied with your vote.

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